

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/020,040

Examiner

Patrick J Connolly

Applicant(s)

CROWLEY ET AL.

Art Unit

2877

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 16 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-6,8-20,22-25,27-37 and 41-49.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-20, 22-25, 27-37 and 41-49 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an imaging system including: a parallel to serial converter electrically coupling a plurality of parallel outputs of a multi-element photodetector to a serial input of an ultrasound console, wherein the ultrasound console processes data provided by the interferometer to form an image for display, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1.

As to claim 28, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an imaging system including: a multi-element photodetector having a plurality of parallel outputs; and a parallel to serial converter comprising a plurality of inputs, each input being coupled to a respective one of the plurality of outputs of the detector, to convert the parallel data output by the plurality of outputs of the detector into serial data, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 28.

As to claim 32, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an imaging system including: a multi-element photodetector having a plurality of parallel outputs; and a parallel to serial converter comprising a plurality of inputs, each input being coupled to a respective one of the plurality of outputs of the detector, to convert the parallel data output by the plurality of outputs of the detector into serial data, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 32.

As to claim 41, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an imaging system including: a multi-element photodetector having a plurality of parallel outputs; and a parallel to serial converter comprising a plurality of inputs, each input being coupled to a respective one of the plurality of outputs of the detector, to convert the parallel data output by the plurality of outputs of the detector into serial data, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 41.

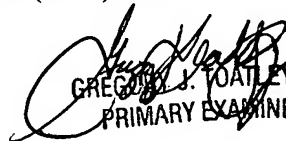
Art Unit: 2877

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J Connolly whose telephone number is 571.272.2412. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 7:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory J Toatley, Jr. can be reached on 571.272.2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
GREGORY J. TOATLEY, JR.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
SE 2877  
9/2/04

pjc PSL  
10.31.2004